GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4710
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
USING OF FOREST LAND BY CIL
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are using forest land in violation of the existing policies / guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the South Eastern Coalfields Limited has been asked to pay Rs.300 crore as compensation for using forest land in Chhattisgarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility have been fixed in the matter;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the erring officials?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

(c) & (d): South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) had filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) for underground mining in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh on the ground that surface forest is not disturbed due to underground mining. Supreme Court permitted operation of the mine subject to the applicant − SECL depositing an amount of Rs.50 Crores towards NPV and an undertaking to deposit the remaining amount with Central Empowered Committee (CEC). Accordingly, SECL complied with the order.

SECL had also filed another petition in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for deletion of the condition of penal compensatory afforestation, as imposed by Ministry of Environmental Forests, Government of India while granting approvals towards renewal of forest land leases of SECL mines in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh states, on the ground that there has been no violation of FC Act, 1980 by SECL in the matter as application for renewal of forest land leases have been submitted by SECL to State Forest Departments of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh states well before the expiry of forest land leases.

Upon Hon'ble Supreme Court's order, SECL has deposited Rs.300 crores within the stipulated time towards NPV and Penal Compensatory Afforestation against renewal of forest land leases.

(e) to (g): Do not arise as the final verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this case is yet to come.
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